

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant editorially amends claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 12-16. The amendments to claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 12-16 were made for reasons of precision of language and consistency, and do not narrow the literal scope of the claims and thus do not implicate an estoppel in the application of the doctrine of equivalents. The amendments to claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 12-16 were not made for reasons of patentability.

In addition, by this Amendment, Applicant adds claims 17-19. Claims 17-19 are clearly supported throughout the specification.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority documents was received. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 8, 2001.

On Form PTOL-326, the Examiner objected to the Declaration. The Examiner, however, did not indicate reasons for objecting to the Declaration. Applicant believes that this objection is an error. Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that the originally executed Declaration is proper.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings received on September 19, 2000 because Fig. 16 has an unlabeled bubble. The drawings have been amended to remedy this situation. Replacement Drawings labeling the bubble "Start" is accompanying this response.

In addition, Applicant amends Fig. 7 to fix a minor typographical error. In particular, the box for Step F71 now recites “Compare T_{cur} and T_{limitD}”.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and indicate approval of the drawing corrections in the next Patent Office paper.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the Abstract of Disclosure for being too long. Applicant herein amends the Abstract so as to place it within the allowable length. In view of this amendment to the specification, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner now to withdraw this objection.

Claims Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 12 and 16 because of minor informalities. Applicant has revised the claims, and respectfully submits that the claims as now presented no longer include the potential informality mentioned by the Examiner. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objections to the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-16 are allowed provided the objections are overcome. Applicant, however, does not acquiesce to any inferences or presumptions drawn from the Examiner’s statement regarding the reasons for allowance.

Conclusion and request for telephone interview

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

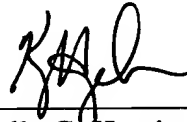
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/665,522

Attorney Docket No.: Q60838

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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